

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12, drawn to a method for “screening” a phage library for the “design and/or selection of chemokine variants”;

Group II, claims 5 and 11, drawn to a method for “producing” a phage library;

Group III, claims 13-19, drawn to a product described as a compound having antagonist properties to RANTES or to M1P-1a and pharmaceutical composition;

Group IV, claims 20-21, drawn to a method for preventing and/or inhibiting HIV infection in humans; and

Group V, claim 22, drawn to a method for preventing and/or curing inflammatory or malignant diseases.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group III, Claims 13-19.

The Examiner further requires with the election of Group III, an election of species with each of the following subgroups.

Subgroup 1: Species of compound; i.e. a single species of compound for example SEQ ID NO:2-RANTES (10-68);

Subgroup 2: A species of antagonistic properties; e.g. RANTES, M1P-IG.

With regard to Subgroup 1, Applicants elect, with traverse, SEQ ID NO:11 (MSPLSSQASA).

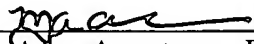
With regard to Subgroup 2, Applicants respectfully note that it is not possible to make an election of species as directed by the Examiner. The Examiner instructs that a “species of antagonistic properties” must be elected. In conjunction with this the Examiner cites to claim 13. However, claim is directed to a genus of RANTES-derived mutants. Applicants fail to see how antagonistic properties are being tied to this claim by the Examiner. The Examiner further lists as examples for selection RANTES and “M1P-IG”. However, as far as Applicants’ representative can determine there is no disclosure in the specification of M1P-IG. Withdrawal or clarification of this election of species is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD, Registration No 40,069 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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